

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS RETENTION COMMITTEE MEETING
RED LION COLONIAL HOTEL, HELENA
SEPTEMBER 1, 2004**

DRAFT MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS RETENTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT: Chair Dick Brown, Donald Steinbeisser, Julie Foster, Jim Davison, Lyle Phillips, Susan Christofferson, Arlene Becker, Diane Ruff

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Vicki Cocchiarella, Lew Grill, Chuck Olson,

STAFF: Pam Watson and Penney Clark

GUESTS: Deb Buxbaum, Suzanne Payton, Brad Eldredge, Annette Miller, Ingrid Childress, Todd Younkin, Joe Nevin, Senator Perry, Rebecca Clark.

I. Call to Order, Welcome and Overview of Meeting Structure

Chairman, Dick Brown, called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM. Chairman Brown also welcomed the group and gave an overview of the agenda. Julie Foster, Montana Jobs Network, the newest committee member, was introduced. Lyle Phillips moved to approve the April 6, 2004, committee meeting minutes, Susan Christofferson seconded. The minutes were approved.

II. Set Date for Tour of Flathead Regional Business Center

The committee has been invited to tour the Flathead Regional Business Center and hold their next meeting at the center. Kalispell Chamber of Commerce President Joe Unterreiner, and Business Advocate Virginia Sloan, gave a presentation to the committee. The committee agreed to tour the center and then possibly schedule a conference call committee meeting. Pam Watson will coordinate a date with the members of the committee and the Business Center.

III. Healthcare Staff Shortage Survey

Chairman Brown reported regarding a staffing shortage survey recently conducted in the health care industry. The Montana Hospital Association partnered with the Research and Analysis Bureau, and in working with Brad Eldredge compiled the survey results. He recommended the committee consider possibly conducting a similar survey in other industries.

IV. Economic Impact Study

Brad Eldredge reviewed the report titled "An Economic Impact Analysis of Montana's Healthcare Industries". This study was also conducted in partnership with the Montana Hospital Association, and is a product the committee could reproduce in other industries. Chairman Brown asked the committee members to think about the next industry that could be targeted for an economic impact study.

Chairman Brown called for public comment, and Senator Perry suggested that the committee consider conducting a study on trial lawyers, and commented that legislation to regulate trial lawyers might help the medical liability insurance industry.

V. Montana Jobs Network

Julie Foster, the newest member of the Committee, is the founder of Montana Jobs Network. Ms. Foster explained to the group that her organization provides information and assistance to people that want to return home to Montana to work. One of the things that they provide is salary information. She proposed to the committee that a request be taken to the full Board to pay the license fee for salary.com, a salary calculator that they would like to include on the Montana Jobs Network website, or another accessible location. The license fee is about \$2,000.00 per year.

It was agreed that there needed to be more research before this could be proposed to the full Board, and staff was asked to gather additional information to provide at the next committee meeting.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Dick Brown, Chairman

Date